

**Brooklyn Agricultural Commission**

**Tuesday, January 22, 2019**

**7:00 PM**

**Town Hall**

Present: Lou Brodeur, Sandy Brodeur, Anne Ennis, Charles Langevin, and Joyce Meader.

Absent with notification: Stan Karro.

Public: Aaron Kerouak

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.

C. Langevin moved that the minutes from November be accepted as presented. S. Brodeur seconded. Motion passed.

Public Participation: None.

Old Business:

- A. J. Meader spoke about a Finnish history book that S. Karro loaned her. It included some of the history of farming in Brooklyn. Many of the original Finnish people who moved here were communists and held meetings at their social clubs. They did not assimilate with locals or speak any language other than Finnish until their children entered public schools. It is interesting when this history is compared to our world today. The men usually worked in quarries while the women did house cleaning. In 1930 Russia asked these people to return to Russia because Russia was planning to build a utopian community where they could live. Many of the Finnish people returned but no community was built. They were executed. Joyce will bring the book to another meeting to share with us if we would like to read it.
- B. A. Ennis has been asked to present a resume to the Killingly Ag Advisory Committee so that she can be appointed to the committee. She will work on that. L. Brodeur gave a report on the last committee meeting that he attended. Enrollment is down somewhat but could still pick up. An air handler in one of the greenhouses was down and the state finally granted the school money to fix it. One of the fish tanks used in the program was inoperable for a while. The instructor used the parts to convert it so it can be used in aquaculture, which will be a new program for the school. Mr. Couture is resigning from the program this fall.

- C. The Community Garden is probably not a very good fit for a project for our Ag Commission. The Killingly Ag Commission was given the green house and gardens that were previously used by the old high school. This gave them a perfect opportunity to start their garden. We are more rural than Killingly. The Ag Commission needs to pursue some other project for this year. One possibility is the Sustainable Connecticut project that the Conservation Commission will be doing this year. A. Ennis will ask the Plainfield Ag Commission if they can have someone speak with us at a future meeting.

#### New Business:

February 6 there will be Gypsy Moth workshop at the Ag. Center. J. Meader will forward the information to us. It is about the damage that has been done to our forests.

We need to start thinking about who to sponsor for Walktober. . A.J. Kerouak suggested perhaps the walking trail from Route 205 to the school. C. Langevin suggested hiking the trail along the river from perhaps the Davis property to C. Langevin's property. We would need someone to talk about the history of the area during the walk. L. Brodeur suggested that we contact the Last Green Valley to see if they might suggest someone who could do this. A. J. Kerouak said that most of that property is owned by the Town. We would need to arrange to have someone take the people back to the Davis property to pick up their vehicles because the walk would be rather lengthy.

We will hold our election of officers until our February meeting.

#### Action Items for Next Meeting:

- Work on finding a project for 2019.
- Further discussion of a possible walk from the Davis property to Jolly's. L. Brodeur will try to get maps of the area and S. Brodeur will contact the Last Green Valley before the meeting.
- Election of officers for 2019.

C. Langevin made a motion to adjourn at 7:45 pm. S. Brodeur seconded. All in favor; motion carried.

Next meeting: February 26, 2019.

Sincerely,

Sandy Brodeur, acting secretary